

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants respectfully disagree with the assertion that FIG. 1 originally did not include element 12; thus element 12 does not need to be added. Regarding FIG. 2, the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 32, should be replaced with the rewritten paragraph, to conform the description to the original drawing. This and the other rewritten paragraphs respond to the Examiner's objections and suggestions.

Original claims 1 - 21 have been canceled, and the new claims 1 - 3 have been added, to correct editorial errors, clear up any matters of form, and to combine patentable, novel features of the original claims. Applicants respectfully submit that the new claims 1 - 3 present patentable novelty, and avoid the reference relied upon by the examiner (U.S. Patent No. 5,987,457 to Ballard). Specifically, the new claims 1 - 3 combine these patentable, novel features of the original claims: marking URL's positive or negative; submitting a bookmark set, which includes said marked URL's, to a search engine; and repeating as often as a user desires, to refine search results to a manageable level.

Applicants respectfully submit that the following distinctions render new claims 1 - 3 patentable over the reference relied upon by the examiner: Applicants' "marking URL's" is distinct from Ballard's "categorizing at least one document." URL's are not mentioned by Ballard. Applicants' "positive or negative markings" are distinct from Ballard's "of interest" or "not of interest" categories. Applicants' "submitting said bookmark set to a search engine" is distinct from Ballard's "the refined query phrase 68 is submitted to the search engine 30." Applicants' feature of repeating as often as a user desires, to refine search results to a manageable level, is not mentioned by Ballard.

Applicants respectfully challenge the rejections based on the Examiner's official notice (in paragraph 12 of the Office Action). Applicants respectfully request an affidavit from the Examiner under 37 CFR 1.104(d)(2), reproduced at MPEP 707.05.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned
Version with markings to show changes made.

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

The changes are shown by brackets [for deleted matter] and underlining for added matter.

In the Specification:

The paragraph beginning at page 1, line 4, has been amended as follows:

World Wide Web ("Web") searches based on search engines, e.g. the search engine with the trademark YAHOO™, or the search engine with the trademark ALTA VISTA™, [Yahoo™, Alta Vista™,] often produce search results which are more extensive or broader than desired. Refining the search typically requires the reformulation of the original search to add or subtract search criteria from the search syntax.

The paragraph beginning at page 3, line 18, has been amended as follows:

One of the most common and frequently one of the most disappointing activities performed on the Internet is searching among a plethora of information available at various Web servers for the particular information in which the user is interested. There are a variety of research engines available including the search engine with the trademark ALTA VISTA™, the search engine with the trademark LYCOS™ and the search engine with the trademark HOTBOT™, [Alta Vista™, Lycos™ and HotBot™,] as well as various search engines attached to the individual Web servers themselves.

The paragraph beginning at page 6, line 6, has been amended as follows:

For purposes of general computer background only, Fig. 1 is presented. It merely represents a typical block diagram of a data processing system including a central processing unit (CPU) and network connections via a communications adapter which is capable of implementing the present invention. A CPU, such as one of the PowerPC™ microprocessors available from International Business Machines Corporation (IBM) (PowerPC is a trademark of IBM), is provided and interconnected to various other components by system bus 12. An operating system 41 runs on CPU 10 and provides control and is used to coordinate the function of the various components of Fig. 1. Operation system 41 may be one of the commercially available operating systems such as DOS, or the OS/2™ operating system available from IBM (OS/2 is a trademark of IBM). A program application[, such as the program in the above-mentioned VRT platform,] 40 runs in conjunction with operating system 41 and provides output calls to the operating system 41 which implements the various functions to be performed by the application 40.

The paragraph beginning at page 7, line 32, has been amended as follows :

Turning to Fig. 2, the process is started at 201 where the searcher enters a search on a typical Browser (i.e. Browser for Windows). The search results are then returned to the Researcher on Browser Window at 202. The query is then raised at location 203, after the

Researcher reviews the results of 202 as to whether they require further refinement of the results. If the Researcher is satisfied and no further refinement is needed and the response is NO to whether or not further refinement is needed, then the process is ended at location 206 and no further refinement is required. However, if the answer to 203 is YES, then at 204 the user selects one or more entries from the results window at the 202 location above, and at 205 submits them; the process is returned to location 202 and repeated until the desired refinement is attained.

The paragraph beginning at page 8, line 13, has been amended as follows:

The actual detailed process of the present invention which involves the refinement of existing search output is detailed in Fig. 3. The process begins at location 300. Initially, the researcher scans the output returned by the search engine at Fig. 3, location 301. The URLs which are closer to the user's needs are marked positively and the URLs which are furthest from the user's needs are marked negatively at location 302. Then a numeric + or - rating may [nay] be registered at 303. The URLs which are not marked are considered neutral and do not affect further operations at 304.

In the Claims:

Claims 1 - 21 have been canceled.

Claims 1 - 3 (new) have been added.



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(Date)

Signature: Paul D Heydon
Paul D. Heydon

RE: Docket No. AT9-98-146. Application No. 09/439,052. Art Unit 2177.
Filing Date 11/12/1999. Examiner : Wong, Leslie.

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing is correspondence regarding the application of:

Inventors: Kelvin Roderick Lawrence, et al.

For: A System and Method for Bookmark Set Search and Execution Refinement

Enclosed are:

X 2 sheets of drawings, showing the proposed changes in red for approval by the examiner, pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). Please make the following changes: In FIG. 1, add the element "speaker 28" that is mentioned in the description. In FIG. 3, add a "Yes" label under decision diamond 307, as mentioned in the description. Also in block 302, delete the first occurrence of the phrase "closer to" and instead add "further from," as mentioned in the description.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of this correspondence by returning the enclosed postcard.

Respectfully submitted,

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09/43965 J.

FIG.



